

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

First Reading

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth. *Psalm*

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Second Reading

Light, immortal, light divine, visit thou these hearts of thine,
and our inmost being fill.

Sequence

God our Father,
let the Spirit you sent on your Church
to begin the teaching of the gospel
continue to work in the world
through the hearts of all who believe.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Acts 2: 1–11; Psalm 103 (104); 1 Cor. 12: 3–7, 12–13; John 20: 19–23



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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

James Tissot, *Christ at the Cenacle* c.1890



PREGO LEAFLET

Pentecost Sunday
Year A, 24th May 2026

The love of God
has been poured into
our hearts through the
Spirit of God dwelling
within us, alleluia!

On this great celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit, today's readings tell of the gifts of consolation and peace, and of the commissioning of the disciples.

The **First Reading** describes how the Holy Spirit arrives as tongues of fire, with the gift of communication.

The **Psalm** implores the Lord to send his Spirit for the renewal of the whole earth.

St Paul, writing to the church at Corinth (**Second Reading**), focuses on the unity of the Spirit through a diversity of gifts.

Finally, St John (**Gospel**) recalls the appearance of the Risen Christ to the disciples in the Upper Room. Christ's gift of consoling peace empowers them for mission.

Let us pray, this week, that we, like them, might receive what the Lord wants to give us and so respond in like manner.



Opening Prayer

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast
sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation,
pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit
across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace
that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
fill now once more the hearts of believers.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12: 3b–7, 12–13

Brothers and Sisters: No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

I come to this time of prayer through the very same Spirit of God who dwells in me. I take time to become more deeply aware of this indwelling. Then I ask for the grace to respond generously.

When I feel still, I read the text once or twice, very slowly, noting any places to which I am drawn.

Perhaps I want to savour the ‘varieties of gifts’. What gifts have I been given by the Spirit? What will I do with them? How will I use them?

For what services or to what activities am I being called?
How can I be of service to the body of Christ through the common good?

Perhaps I imagine myself standing before Jesus, my Lord, asking:
‘What have I done for you?
What am I doing for you?
What will I do for you?’

In turn, I might end by pondering all that the Lord has done for me, and is doing for me, and will do for me.

Glory be to the Father ...

Gospel John 20: 19–23

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.’

Again, I give some time to become still. I don’t rush this important step. Then I read the gospel twice.

Christ spends the days between his Resurrection and Ascension consoling people. In the spirituality of St Ignatius, the work of the Risen Christ is that of the bringer of consolation.

Christ the consoler continues to be active here and now, so perhaps I could imagine Jesus standing close by, maybe with one of my fears or some area of my life in which I feel locked. He breathes on me and gives me his Spirit of consolation, who, in the words of Pope Francis, ‘*loosens even the most complex knots of human affairs with infinite creativity*’ (Laudato Si #80).

Jesus says to me, ‘peace’. We look at each other as I wonder at his gift of consoling peace.

What will I do with this gift?
How does this encounter with Christ encourage me?
How will I collaborate in the ministry of Christ’s consolation, choosing it for myself, and helping others to choose this pathway to hope, joy and deep peace?

I end by pondering this line from St Ignatius and, perhaps, asking for the grace to begin practising it in my daily life ...

*‘Let’s consider the office of the consoler which Christ our Lord carries out, and compare it with the way friends console one another.’
(Spiritual Exercises #224).*